

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Online resources for aid administrators:

- [Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site](#)
- [HECB secure Web site for aid administrators](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [State Work Study](#)
- [Washington Promise Scholarship](#)
- [Educational Opportunity Grant](#)
- [Washington Scholars Program](#)
- [WAVE](#)
- [Other state aid programs](#)
- [Past issues of the *Financial Aid News* and other publications](#)
- [Washington Financial Aid Association](#)
- [Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#)



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Coordinating Board

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Issue 19 — February 21, 2003

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Legislative update

The legislature today completes the 40th day of a planned 105-day session. Lawmakers continue to introduce new legislation that would affect financial aid programs and higher education.

Senate Bill 5864 allows some recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for the Promise Scholarship. The Senate Higher Education Committee will take testimony about this bill on Monday at 1:30 p.m. This is one of three bills that would bring changes to the Promise Scholarship program; all three proposals are highlighted below.

In an effort to reduce student consumer debt, House Bill 1934 prohibits the administration of credit card applications on higher education campuses. The House Higher Education Committee will hold a public hearing on this bill on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

House Bill 1997 addresses over-enrollment management issues at institutions by clarifying and tightening the definition of residency and by requiring higher tuition — equal to the full cost of instruction — for students who:

- have an excess of credits required for graduation;
- fall below full-time status during an academic term; or
- are readmitted to an institution after being disenrolled for poor academic performance.

The bill has not been scheduled for a hearing.

Lawmakers are quickly approaching deadlines for introducing new legislation. March 5 marks the last day that new bills may be introduced in most legislative committees, including the House and Senate higher education committees. (The cutoff is March 10 for bills originating in the House fiscal committees and the Senate Ways & Means and Highways & Transportation committees.)

At this time, all of the bills that the Higher Education Coordinating Board has been tracking are still under consideration. After the March cutoffs, the number of bills with a chance for passage this session will begin to dwindle.

While the March cutoffs will likely bring a quick decrease in the number of bills that remain in play, we could still see some new proposals after the deadlines. Lawmakers have until the session's 96th day (April 18) to introduce bills that affect the budget or the implementation of the budget.

This week, you will find the hearing schedule and list of bills we're tracking at the end of the newsletter, where they will remain for the rest of the legislative session.

For more information about legislation related to financial aid or higher education, contact Colleen Scovill at colleens@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7850.

New features in the *Financial Aid News*

There are some changes in this week's *News*. As the last article noted, we've moved next week's hearing schedule and the list of financial aid and higher education bills to the end of each issue. The bill list is now also sorted by topic.

Now that the Higher Education Coordinating Board's new Web site has been launched, we are able to provide the long-promised list of online financial aid resources. It's on the front page, at left. The list includes the Web sites of state, regional and national associations as well as direct links to the pages of the state's financial aid programs. You can access any of these resources simply by clicking on the link.

We hope these changes will make the *News* a better resource for you.

Three different bills propose changes to the Promise Scholarship program

Lawmakers are considering three different proposals that would bring changes to the Washington Promise Scholarship program.

Substitute Senate Bill 5138 allows any student who meets the standard on the reading and math components of the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to qualify for Promise. Students could also continue to qualify by graduating in the top 15 percent of their class or by scoring a 1200 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT on the first attempt.

Senate Bill 5864, introduced this week, allows students with a GED to qualify for Promise. GED holders would have to be 21 years old or less at the time of application and achieve a first-attempt score of 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT.

House Bill 1706 proposes the biggest departure from the current design of the program. The bill eliminates academic benchmarks for qualification. Instead, schools would nominate students who “have overcome personal or financial barriers and show promise to succeed” in higher education. The Higher Education Coordinating Board would oversee the nomination process and convene a committee to select recipients from the pool of eligible nominees. The bill includes provisions for private schools to nominate recipients and for home-schooled students to nominate themselves.

All three bills preserve the program's income requirements: family income for eligible recipients cannot exceed 135 percent of the state median.

Congress passes federal student aid budget for 2003-04

Congress on February 14 gave final approval to its education budget for fiscal year 2003. The measure, which is more than four months overdue, provides funding for federal financial aid programs for 2003-04.

In a surprise to many, Congress provided more funds than the president requested in several key programs. Maximum Pell Grants will rise from the current \$4,000 to \$4,050 in 2003-04. The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant will see a \$40 million boost, for a total of \$765 million. Two early intervention programs — GEAR UP and TRIO — will get 4 percent increases next year. And the budget will fund the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership programs (LEAP/SLEAP) at fiscal year 2002 levels.

You can find the budget details online at the U.S. Department of Education Web site: [Department of Education FY 2003 budget detail](#).

Legislative hearings on financial aid and select higher education issues — Feb. 24 – 28

Monday, Feb. 24, 2003

Senate Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3

Public Hearing, including:

- SB 5448 – granting permanent tuition-setting authority to institutions for all but resident undergraduates
- SB 5249 – creating the HELP program
- SB 5660 – creating a supplemental grant program for SNG recipients with dependents
- SB 5864 – allowing some GED earners to be eligible for the Promise Scholarship
- SB 5676 – changing provisions in the EOG program

House Appropriations Committee, 3:30 p.m., House Hearing Room A

Public Hearing, including:

- HB 1123 – allowing financial aid funds to be carried forward from one year to the next

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003

House Higher Education Committee, 10 a.m., House Hearing Room D

Public Hearing, including:

- HB 1934 – prohibiting the administration of credit card applications on campuses

No further hearings this week on legislation related to financial aid.

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	http://www.tvw.org
HECB 2003 legislative session site:	http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp

Bills of interest by subject

Bill numbers

Senate
House

Sponsors

Description

Washington Promise Scholarship

SSB 5138	Carlson	Allows any student who meets the standard on the reading and math components of the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to qualify academically for the Promise Scholarship
SB 5864	Shin, Carlson	Allows some recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for Promise scholarships; recipients must meet family income criteria, be 21 years old or younger at time of application, and achieve a SAT composite score of at least 1200 or an ACT composite score of at least 27 on their first attempt
HB 1706	Mastin, Grant	Changes Promise Scholarship eligibility from students who demonstrate high school academic success to students "who have overcome personal or financial barriers and show promise to succeed" in college

Educational Opportunity Grant

SB 5676	Kohl-Welles	Companion bills change elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses
HB 1731	Kenney, Cox	

Conditional scholarships for prospective teachers

SB 5420	McAuliffe	Creates conditional scholarship program for prospective special education teachers
HB 1763	Berkey, Jarrett	Provides conditional scholarship for prospective teachers pursuing certificates in mathematics, science, technology, special education, or bilingual education

Financial aid carry-forward

HB 1123	Kenney, Cox	Ensures that unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year are preserved for financial aid purposes through the creation of a dedicated account
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Bills of interest by subject — continued

Bill numbers

Senate
House

Sponsors

Description

Other financial aid and tuition waiver proposals

SB 5004	Jacobsen	Creates an endowed scholarship for Hispanic American students
SB 5189	Benton	Exempts veterans of the Korean conflict from tuition increases
SB 5249	Kohl-Welles, Shin	Establishes the Higher Education for Lifelong Progress (HELP) program, which would provide grants to assist college-eligible Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients for up to two years of higher education; allows participation in the HELP program to count toward TANF work requirements
SB 5357	West, Sheahan	Authorizes tuition waivers on a space-available basis for children of faculty at institutions of higher education
SB 5405	Jacobsen	Permits a limited number of students to use their State Need Grant awards out of state at select historically black colleges
SB 5476 HB 1486	Haugen O'Brien	Exempts the surviving spouses and children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters from paying tuition and fees
SB 5660 HB 1277	Kohl-Welles, Carlson Kenney, Cox	Companion bills create a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program

TANF and WorkFirst related proposals

SB 5249	Kohl-Welles, Shin	Establishes the Higher Education for Lifelong Progress (HELP) program, which would provide grants to assist college-eligible Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients for up to two years of higher education; allows participation in the HELP program to count toward TANF work requirements
SB 5294 HB 2041	Kohl-Welles, Regala Kenney, Boldt	Allows students enrolled in a postsecondary program and earning their full federal or state work study awards to count as full-time WorkFirst participants for a period of up to 24 months

Bills of interest by subject — continued

Bill numbers

Senate
House

Sponsors

Description

Tuition and residency

SSB 5135	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	Requires students with an excess of 120 percent of the credits required for a degree or certificate to pay tuition equivalent to the full cost of instruction
SSB 5158	Carlson, McAuliffe	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have lived in Washington three years prior to graduation and spend full senior year of high school in the state; similar, though not a companion to HB 1079
HB 1079	Kenney, Cox	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have attended at least three years of high school in the state; similar, though not a companion to SSB 5158
SB 5448 HB 1437	Carlson, Kohl-Welles Kenney, Cox	Makes permanent institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates; existing authority expires June 30, 2003
HB 1997	Cox, Priest	Addresses over-enrollment management issues at institutions by clarifying and tightening the definition of residency and by requiring that tuition equal the full cost of instruction for students (1) with an excess of credits required for graduation, (2) who fall below full-time status during an academic term, or (3) who are readmitted to an institution after being disenrolled for poor academic performance

Other higher education proposals

SB 5010	Jacobsen	Authorizes branch campuses to offer lower-division coursework
SB 5136	Carlson, Schmidt	Expands membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Board to include the Superintendent of Public Instruction
SB 5137	Carlson	Specifies that students who meet 10th-grade reading and math standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning [WASL] shall be deemed to have met the state's general undergraduate admission requirements

Bills of interest by subject — continued

Bill numbers

Senate
House

Sponsors

Description

SB 5139	Carlson	Requires school districts to bear the cost of instruction for remedial postsecondary education course work, including student tuition
SB 5241	Kohl-Welles, Carlson	Requires that the state budget provide funding for actual enrollments at public institutions; includes provisions for additional financial aid funding based on increases in enrollments and the costs of attendance
SB 5902	Kohl-Welles	Creates a state income tax for families with annual incomes of \$500,000 or more; revenue would be earmarked for K-12 and higher education
HB 1934	McCoy	Prohibits the administration of credit card applications on higher education campuses